

to allowance, Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite hybridization to only the complement of SEQ ID NO:1. Applicants submit that revised claim 2 even more clearly meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

XV. Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Action next rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), as allegedly anticipated by Hillier *et al.* (GenBank Accession Number AA069426; "Hillier"). While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the present rejection, as claim 1 has been amended to recite the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, which is neither taught nor suggested by Hillier, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) has been overcome, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

XVI. Conclusion

The present document is a full and complete response to the Action. In conclusion, Applicants submit that, in light of the foregoing remarks, the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Landsman have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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